Nippon Times

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AMERICANS RETREAT FROM WISSEMBURG ON FRANCE'S BORDER

7th Army Forced to Move Back 5 Miles in Region Fronting Old Maginot Line

Domei

LISBON, January 4.—The Paris radio said today that the American 7th Army has evacuated the French-German border town of Wissemburg situated in the region fronting the old Maginot Line. The Paris report added that American retreats have been up to five miles at some places.

Other anti-Axis frontline reports confirmed the progress of the German attacks all along the Saar and Palatinate frontiers. One said that German attacks all the way from the Saar to the Rhine moved up to four miles through the American lines and that the Germans pushed steadily along the Saar and Palatinate frontiers forcing the Americans to give up their toeholds on German soil from Monschau south to the Swiss frontier.

Yanks Start Fresh Attacks

Domei

BERLIN, January 4.—While no decision has yet been reached in the fighting around Bastogne, American forces, supported by British 2nd Army elements, early this morning opened up fresh attacks against the northern flank of the German bulge principally between Stavelot and Marche.

No report concerning the new fighting has been issued by the German High Command yet, but the German spokesman declared today that the attacks, on considerably strong scale, had failed although heavy fighting is still continuing.

It is gathered, however, that Eisenhower's new enterprise against the northern flank has had much preparation and is obviously on a major scale. Reports said that the American 1st Army replenished by ranks of the 9th Army is bearing the brunt of the new offensive. It has been learned also that Montgomery's British tank forces are also participating in the operations.

The new American counter-offensive is believed to be a part of a large pincer operation to cut off the deep German salient from the north and south, but the Americans in the Bastogne area have again been forced on the defensive and although no details are available on the fighting on the northern flank it is sure that the southern prong of the pincer has already been paralyzed.

In the Bastogne area, Patton's troops continued strong attacks against the southern flank between St. Hubert and Bastogne without, however, forcing a break-through during the past 24 hours. All attacks to the north and northeast were smashed and eight kilometers northeast of Bastogne, the Germans captured the town of Michamps in a counterattack.

In the Saar and Palatinate frontier area, German attacks continued to pound out gains through the disconcerted American lines, and the German front has been moved up considerably between Bitsch and Saargemued. The German military spokesman declared today that the Germans in three days have gained 21 kilometers—the same distance covered by the Americans in three months in the Aachen area.

The German push has compelled the Americans to regroup their forces and it is learned that Eisenhower has called for support from the French 1st Army in Alsace to replenish the depleted American 7th Army.

The Germans occupied further localities south of Bliesbruck River and moved ahead in the forest region of Lower Vosges. The German penetration is reported to be still expanding.

U.S. May Draft More Men

Domei

LISBON, January 3.—James Byrnes, Director of the U.S. War Mobilization Board, who yesterday demanded the further strengthening of the wartime domestic structure, supported Major General Lewis Hershey, Director of the U.S. Selective Service Board, today, with the approval of President Roosevelt, to conscript immediately youths between the ages of 18 and 26 in agrarian districts who have been hitherto exempted from military services, according to a Washington dispatch. Should Byrnes' demand be passed, some 364,000 youths will be newly conscripted for military services.

Anglo-American Ill-Feeling Aggravated As Pearson Again Bares Secret Paper

Domei

LISBON, January 4.—Drew Pearson, noted critic of America's foreign policies, has again brought to light a secret Anglo-American diplomatic document which, revealing the divergence of opinion existing between the British and United States Governments, has intensified the ill-feeling between the two Governments, according to a Washington dispatch.

Th latest reaction to Pearson's revelation is expected to be forthcoming from Edward Stettinius, U.S. State Secretary, in the form of an immediate firm disciplinary action—probably aimed at tightening up the whole security system of the State Department which Pearson publicly ridiculed.

Intense indignation is expressed in official circles at the "leakage" and both Governments are reported as taking measures to prevent similar recurrences. It is said the document is universally accepted as authentic.

What had started the whole ugly situation was Drew Pearson's allegation published in the New York Daily Mirror, today. Pearson presented a reproduction of the text of an alleged confidential document given to the State Department by Lord Halifax. Pearson said that the document dealt with the divergence of opinion between the United States and Britain over the feeding of Italy.

Today's leakage followed closely on the heels of the New York Times' publication of the State Department's study of papers on the plans for southeastern Europe which Stettinius described as "private."

London Reaction Strong

Domei

LISBON, January 4.—Reaction to Drew Pearson's revelation of Britain's official communication to the State Department appeared extremely strong in British official circles and it is said that steps are to be taken by the British Government to put an end to the leakage of official documents in Washington, according to a London dispatch.

GREEK PREMIER OUTLINES POLICY OF NEW REGIME

Liberal And Progressive Heads And Papandreou Support Plastiras' Cabinet

Domei

LISBON, January 4.—General Nicholas Plastiras newly-appointed Greek Premier, at a press conference today outlined the five-point program of his Government and revealed the members of his Cabinet, according to an Athens dispatch.

General Plastiras declared that the aims of his Government were: firstly restoration of the power of the state by imposing a legal order; secondly, recall of all public servants to fulfill their duties; thirdly, punish all who collaborated in crimes during the German occupation; fourthly, meet the urgent needs of the population—food shelter and communications; and fifthly, stabilize the currency and aid the working classes.

It is reported, that Themistocles Sofoulis Liberal leader, George Kafandaris, Progressive leader, and George Papandreou former Premier, have announced their support of the new Government.

Meanwhile, Regent Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens yesterday swore in the new Government headed by Premier Plastiras who also retained four other important posts, assuming the War, Navy, Air and Merchant Marine portfolios.

The Cabinet comprises six more Ministers and five working Undersecretaries and dispatches said that the reaction of the ELAS elements to the "common confidence" Cabinet was being awaited.

BUDAPEST FIGHT RAGING

Bitter Struggle Reported in Industrial Quarters of City

Domei

BERLIN, January 4.—Red Army troops yesterday concentrated their poundings against besieged Budapest with attacks mainly from the east against the eastern industrial quarters in which bitter fighting raged among the factory buildings.

German and Hungarian troops defending themselves from fortified positions among the factory buildings beat back all assaults except for few minor penetrations and maintained their positions. The Soviets still poured in forces to overcome the bitterly resisting garrison guarding the heart of the capital.

Also on the southern Slovakian frontier, all Soviet breakthrough attempts on a wide front were checked or thrown back while some fighting continued in the front between East Slovakia and Courland.

German ground operations were again effectively supported by the Luftwaffe which yesterday accounted for 34 of the Soviet tanks destroyed and put more than 500 vehicles out of action.

MEDAN RAIDERS SMASHED

3 Others Blasted at Tarakan by Solid Japanese Counter-Attack

Domei

SUMATRA, January 4.—A combined formation of some 40 enemy bombers and fighter planes came attacking the vicinity of Medan around 10 a.m. today. Immediately met by powerful Japanese anti-aircraft fire, the enemy suffered the loss of more than half of their formation. Details of the results are now being investigated. Damage on our side was slight.

3 Raiders Blasted

Domei

TARAKAN, January 4.—Two enemy planes were downed and another was heavily damaged by the Japanese when a formation of 17 planes comprised of 11 B-25's, four P-47's and two B-24's came attacking the vicinity of the airfield here on December 30. No damage was sustained by the Japanese side.

SECRET PACT SAID MADE BETWEEN PARIS, MOSCOW

Understanding Reached by De Gaulle In Recent Talk With Stalin Is Outlined

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, January 4.—During President General Charles de Gaulle's recent visit to Moscow, it has become clearly evident that apart from the Soviet-French Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Aid already published, some secret pacts or understandings were made between Marshal Josef Stalin and the President of the French Provisional Government.

From London and Paris, several reports have reached here by which one can draw the following conclusions concerning the understandings:

1. Premier Stalin asked the French to give recognition to the Lublin Polish Government, but De Gaulle hesitated to comply. However, he promised to send a representative to Lublin and consider the Government there a de facto and at the same time continue to recognize the Polish regime in London as legitimate.

2. France agreed upon the adjustment of the Polish-Soviet frontier according to the Curzon Line and as compensation agreed that the western frontier of Poland be drawn as far as Oder.

3. In return, the Soviet Union is said to have agreed to support the French claims that part of the industrial areas of Rhineland and Ruhr be separated from Germany and be established as a more or less independent state under the French-Belgian supremacy.

4. In regard to the European customs union, De Gaulle asked for Premier Stalin's agreement to a possible inclusion of the French customs area. The Soviets apparently have nothing against the French project.

5. The thought of some coordinated agreement that might combine the pacts between London and Moscow and Moscow to Paris and London to Paris probably have been discussed, but it seems that the final solution has been given up as it is too complicated.

In connection with this problem, the opinion was expressed that it is possible that De Gaulle is planning to go to London in person to take up negotiations there.

It is generally believed that the recent negotiations between Marshal Stalin and De Gaulle were advantageous to both. From the Soviet viewpoint, the Soviet Union succeeded in getting some strength in the Polish question and also succeeded in weakening the British-American power of occupation of Germany after the war by introducing France into these supposed powers of occupation. From the French viewpoint, on the other hand, the French claim of Rhineland and Ruhr was not only strengthened by the Soviet backing but through these negotiations France was able to become one of the big States in Europe.

NEW INCREASE IN TAXES DECIDED BY GOVERNMENT

Annual Revenue Gain of ¥1,800,000,000 Expected—Bill To Be Presented Diet

The Government decision to increase taxes, to about ¥1,800,000,000 in a normal year, at Thursday's Cabinet meeting was made public through the Board of Information on Friday. Details of the tax increase draft will be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on January 12 and, upon approval, will be presented to the present Diet session. Emphasis will be laid on classified income tax, corporation tax, and special corporation tax as well as the rice wine tax, admission tax and other indirect taxes.

In the total revenue, the Government will realize an increased revenue of about 20 per cent through the tax increase. As to the classified tax, the labor income tax will be raised to 18 per cent from the present rate of 15 per cent, business income tax to 21 per cent from 18 per cent, interest rate on Government bonds to 22 per cent from 19 per cent, dividends from stocks to 23 per cent from 20 per cent, and income from immovable property to 23 per cent.

The rate of corporation tax will be raised to 33 per cent from the present rate of 30 per cent and that of special corporation tax to 22 per cent from 20 per cent. The transit tax will be raised according to classes. The tax on rice wine and beer will also be raised, so that the Government expects to get a 70 per cent increase in revenue.

As a result of the raise in admission tax, the National Treasury will see an increased revenue of 90 per cent over the present amount. The income tax has hitherto been paid in four instalments but, commencing the next fiscal year, it will have to be paid in two instalments.

Reduction will be made in tax assessments on interest accruing from various kinds of deposits in banks and other financing institutions. Many other revisions will be made on details of the present taxation system.

Finance Minister Sotaro Ishiwata made the following statement concerning the proposed tax increase:

"The Government has taken into consideration the real condition of the national capacity to bear taxation and the situation of the tax administration in connection with the new increase and, as a result, it has seen it appropriate to carry out a simple, but concentrated tax boost. The increase will mainly be made in classified income tax, corporation tax and rice wine tax. An increased revenue for the National Treasury amounting to about ¥1,800,000,000 is estimated to be realized in a normal year. In line with the tax increase, the Government has decided to reduce taxes necessary to meet the requirements of the present situation. The proposed tax increase will be carried out at a time when the tax bearing capacity of the nation is increasing, but the measure is an absolutely necessary one for Japan to attain victory."

Changes will be effected with regard to the classified income tax, with the tax on labor earnings being raised from the existing rate of 15 per cent of the monthly income to 18 per cent. Supposing a person makes ¥150 a month. According to the new regulations, 18 per cent will be levied as income tax on ¥100, with ¥50 deducted as basic reduction amount as formerly. Again, supposing he has a wife and two children dependent on him, ¥6 will be deducted from the ¥18 tax with ¥2 deducted for each dependent.

As to the retail price of the first-class sake, it will be raised to ¥15 per one "sho" whereas it has been ¥12.50, with adoption of the new tax regulations. The price of beer, per bottle will become ¥2 whereas it has been ¥1.35. The price of 12-year-old Suntory whisky, per bottle, which is to be raised to ¥70 whereas it has been sold at the price of ¥50 and the seven-year-old which was sold previously at the price of ¥36 will cost ¥50 due to the increase in tax.

CABINET'S COOPERATION IS STRESSED BY KOISO

Will Make Every Effort to Gain Victory This Year, States Prime Minister

Prime Minister General Kuniaki Koiso made clear his determination to pursue policies with the utmost vigor at the Cabinet meeting of January 4, the first one held this year. He asked the members present to cooperate closely and enthusiastically in all measures he would carry out with the idea of realizing the state of affairs in the country which are absolutely necessary in order to meet fully the crisis that has arisen out of the development of the war situation in the Leyte area.

The substance of Prime Minister Koiso's statement at the Cabinet meeting follows:

"I have a desire to act deliberately in seeing that the 20th year of Showa be the year of victory. But the present aspect of the war situation is exceedingly severe. We won victories unparalleledly great, in the Aerial Battle off Taiwan and the Sea Battle off the Philippine Islands. But the loss sustained by us in these battles necessarily was not small.

"Following these battles, both the Army and the Navy began to work with the Special Attack Corps, and they have since been arresting the further advance of the enemy. However, it does not necessary follow that the war situation at Leyte is favorable. It looks as though the decisive battle of Leyte had changed to a decisive battle involving the entire Philippine area.

"Judging above all by the developments of the war situation in Europe it is hardly possible to exclude the possibility of the enemy itching to make good in the Pacific the unfavorable development of the war on the European front. It is needless to say that the imperative thing for us to do at this moment is to respond to the energetic fighting of officers and men at the front by inculcating in the people behind the guns the spirit of the Special Attack Corps and by achieving an increase and strengthening of fighting power.

"The Government, for its part, has a desire to push its policies vigorously and adjust the administration to meet the requirements of the decisive phase of the war.

"I want to see you make greater exertions in assisting and cooperating with me in the realization of my desire to meet fully the situation which has developed."

CHUBU DISTRICT RAIDED

Four Mariana-based B-29 bombers penetrated the Japanese mainland during the night of January 4 and the following morning. The first raider appeared over Hamamatsu at 7 p.m. on Thursday but fled after dropping a few incendiary bombs. The second appeared over Nara and its vicinity from the direction of Kii Peninsula at 11:40 p.m. the same night. No missiles were dropped.

The third plane came over the Okazaki district at 5:30 a.m. the next day. Although some incendiary bombs were dropped before fleeing toward the south no damage was caused to the Japanese side. At 9:40 a.m. the same day the fourth raider made a reconnaisance flight over Nagoya and Hamamatsu but fled southward at 10:20 a.m.

Liege, Antwerp, London Hit

Domei

FUEHRER'S HEADQUARTERS, January 4.—German long range fire on Liege and Antwerp to disturb the enemy supplies was continued yesterday while greater London was also hit by flying bombs.

British Weekly Soundly Slaps America; Backs Growth of Soviet Interest Sphere

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, January 4.—The British weekly magazine, the New Statesman and the Nation, blames the Americans for accusing Great Britain of pursuing power politics toward Greece and Poland, according to a Reuter correspondent from London.

In regard to the Polish affair, this magazine says:

"The Americans who prate so eloquently about the fatality of the 'policy of power' should bear in mind that the German capability of destroying a great part of the Soviet Union and of penetrating as far as the gates of Moscow, was due to the fact that the Americans kept out of the League of Nations.

"If the Soviets believe that American capital will in a few years be able to build up western Germany, it is dishonest to criticize the Soviet Union simply because she is trying to create the greatest possible sphere of interest.

"It is no wonder that Premier Stalin, by securing the domination of the Baltic Sea coast and by a special pact with France, is trying to make it impossible for the western powers ever again to organize a war against the Soviet Union."

Raid on Taiwan, Okinawa Woefully Weak; Bombings Scanty, Taiwan Army Reveals

Mainly consisting of carrier-borne planes, enemy aircraft aggregating about 400, again attacked various places on Taiwan and Okinawa in several waves at about 8 a.m. on January 4, gradually fleeing toward the east by 2:20 p.m. the same day, the Taiwan Army announced at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday.

The enemy attacks were slack with very scarce bombings, the communique stated, so that almost no damage was caused to the Japanese side.

Concluding, the communique stated that the war results achieved by the Japanese Forces were six enemy planes shot down or damaged.

The communique follows:

"Enemy planes aggregating about 400, mainly consisting of carrier-borne planes, again attacked various places on Taiwan and Okinawa in several waves at about 8 a.m. on January 4 but fled toward the east one after another by 2:20 p.m.

"The attacks were slack with bombings extremely scarce. Almost no damage was caused to our side.

"War results obtained by our side were five planes shot down (Two unconfirmed) and one damaged."

TURKEY'S SEVERANCE OF TIES SEEN FORCED

Saka Tells National Assembly Break With Japan Result Of American Pressure

Domei

LISBON, January 4.—In explaining the circumstances surrounding the Turkish diplomatic and economic break with Japan before the National Assembly on Thursday, Turkish Foreign Minister Hassan Saka made it clear that the step was due to American pressure, states an Ankara dispatch received here.

On December 28, the United States Government made a representation to the Turkish Government, calling upon the latter to sever diplomatic relations with Japan in order to shorten the war in East Asia, while the British Government advised the Turkish Government to accept the American demand. Under the circumstances, Turkey yielded to the Anglo-American pressure, Foreign Minister Saka declared.

Succumbs to Pressure

Turkey has succumbed to Anglo-American pressure and severed diplomatic and economic relations with Japan. It was Britain who compelled Finland and Bulgaria to break with Germany, and again it was Britain who demanded of Turkey to break with Germany. In view of the Anglo-Turkish relations, it was only to be expected that Britain, supported by the United States, would exert pressure, compelling the latter to sever relations with Japan, it is authoritatively learned.

In regard to the Turkish break with Germany, the Soviet Union, who has important interests in the Near and Middle East, rather stood outside the affair, because the Soviet Union would not have Britain gain a greater influence over Turkey, before the Soviet-Turkish negotiations, which were then proceeding, had been brought to a conclusion.

In connection with the break with Germany, the question of Turkey offering bases to Britain and the United States was discussed, but before the question made any progress on account of the counter-demand of the Soviet Union, the war situation in the Balkans took a sudden turn, it is pointed out. Soviet-Turkish relations became strained for a time. In regard to the question of the Bosporous Straits, Turkey evaded the issue on the ground that it was an international one.

The visit of the British Prime Minister to Moscow patched up the question, and the Soviet Union came to relax pressure on Turkey. Free passage through the Straits, which constitutes the traditional policy of the Soviet Union has added significance at the present moment.

Now that the German-Soviet front has moved west, the transport of supplies to the Soviet Union by way of the Persian Gulf should be avoided as much as possible. But here the rub comes in, for the Soviet Union desires to carry these supplies in Soviet bottoms through the Straits, while Britain and the United States want to have their ships carry them to Black Sea ports. The problem is now in the state of suspense. The Near Eastern and Mediterranean question already sufficiently aggravated by the Greek imbroglio, remains a source of trouble between Britain and the Soviet Union.

Bank of Chosen Razed

A blaze starting on the second floor of the main building of the Bank of Chosen at Keijo at 1:30 a.m. on Friday, resulted in the burning down of practically the entire main edifice, according to an announcement issued by the Chosen Government-General at 6 p.m. the same day. However, thanks to quick action, most of the important documents, account books and bank-notes were saved and business will be resumed from Saturday. Investigations are now underway as to the cause of the fire.

MINDORO AIRFIELDS HIT IN BIG NIGHT AIR ATTACKS

Nippon Raiders Inflict Heavy Damage to Ground Installations on San Jose

By M. NAGAI and H. OMORI
Of the Military Press Corps

ADVANCE BASE IN THE PHILIPPINES, January 4—Crack Units of the Japanese Air Force launched large-scale night attacks against Mindoro Island at midnight yesterday and inflicted heavy damage on the enemy's North and South Airfields there.

One Unit, piercing a barrage of fierce enemy anti-aircraft fire and repulsing three enemy scouting planes, attacked the North Airfield at San Jose. It also machine-gunned and bombed the runway and the ground establishments there. After setting ablaze two places and two enemy aircraft on the ground, all the Japanese raiders returned safely. Another Unit, meanwhile, attacked the South as well as the North Airfields at San Jose and after scoring direct hits, all the planes returned safely to their base.

Tacloban Base Also Bombed

Furiously attacking Tacloban airfield on Leyte Island early yesterday morning, Japanese Bomber Units repeatedly carried out dive-bombing attacks in defiance of enemy anti-aircraft fire and set seven places near the runway afire and caused explosions at two other places. Also, directing machinegun fire, the Japanese attackers inflicted heavy damage on various ground establishments. All the Japanese raiders returned safely.

Japanese Power Admitted

Domei

LISBON, January 4.—The remarkable attack power of the Japanese Forces in the Philippine area was admitted by Colonel Henry L. Stimson, United States Secretary of War, in an interview with the press on January 4, according to a Washington dispatch.

"The Japanese Forces in the Philippines continue to make a striking demonstration of their power of attack.

"In the days to come as heretofore the supply line of the American forces on Mindoro Island will be exposed to the danger of attack by the Japanese air force.

"Considerable damage has already been suffered by the American side in this war to maintain supplies."

Jose on Mindoro, besides Tacloban and Dulag on Leyte on the two successive days of January 1 and 2, are also now continuing their attack.

In the fierce offensive drive carried out from the night of January 2 up to the early morning of January 4, our Wild Eagles blasted 17 places at the airfields at San Jose in addition to causing explosions in two places. In the same period, other Japanese Air Units heavily attacked the air bases at Tacloban and Dulag on Leyte, setting ablaze 11 places besides causing big explosions at two places.

Consequently, the enemy air strength on Leyte is at present approximately 300 planes while only 50 to 60 small planes are observed at the San Jose airfields on Mindoro.

In a diversional movement, the British task force, consisting of two or three aircraft carriers, appeared in the area northwest of Sumatra Island on the morning of January 4 and about 80 carrier-borne planes attempted a raid on the northern part of the island. In the ensuing battle Japanese Forces shot down 26 enemy planes by the dusk of January 4.

On the other hand, a powerful enemy task force is still present in the waters east of Taiwan. No important development was seen in the ground battles on Leyte and Mindoro.

CARRIER, 2 WARSHIPS ARE INSTANTLY SUNK BY ISSEI WARPLANES

26 of 80 Task Force Planes Downed Over Sumatra, Imperial Headquarters Bares

Attacking an enemy task force which entered the area west of Panay Island on the afternoon of January 4, the Issei Special Attack Air Unit with three planes instantaneously sank one aircraft carrier and two battleships or cruisers while an enemy convoy early on the same morning entered San Jose Bay on Mindoro Island, the Imperial Headquarters announced at 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

"Continuing their attacks, units of the Japanese Air Forces blasted 19 places at the airfields at San Jose as well as 13 places at the air bases on Leyte Island, these being the war results obtained from the night of January 2 up to daybreak of January 4, so far ascertained, the communique stated.

Meanwhile, a British task force appeared in the waters northwest of Sumatra Island on the morning of January 4 when about 80 carrier-borne planes attacked the northern part of the island. Japanese Forces shot down 26 of the raiders in the ensuing battle, the communique also disclosed.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
4:30 p.m. January 5

"1.—An enemy convoy early on the morning of January 4 entered San Jose Bay on Mindoro Island while an enemy task force penetrated the area west of Panay Island on the same afternoon.

"Three planes of the Issei Air Unit of Our Special Attack Corps, under protection of fighter planes, dashed against the above task force on the evening of January 4 and instantaneously sank one aircraft carrier and two battleships or cruisers.

"One of our escort fighter planes self-blasted and two others have not yet returned.

"2-Our Air Forces are continuing to attack the enemy airfields at San Jose and Leyte Island. War results obtained from the night of January 2 to daybreak of January 4 follow:

San Jose
- Set ablaze ..... 17 places
- Explosions ..... 2 "

Leyte Island
- Set ablaze ..... 11 places
- Big explosions .... 2 "

"Eight Japanese planes have not yet returned.

"3—An enemy task force appeared in the waters northwest of Sumatra Island on the morning of January 4 and its carrier-borne planes numbering about 80 came attacking the northern part of Sumatra Island.

"War results in the counter-attacking operations known up to the same evening were 26 planes shot down.

"Damage on our side was extremely slight."

Japanese Continue Air Assaults

Wild Eagles of the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy Forces, hand-in-hand with members of the Special Attack Corps, are pushing their relentless onslaughts against the American and British forces in the Philippine area.

In an effort to strengthen the landed troops on Mindoro Island an enemy convoy consisting of about 30 transports, entered the Sulu Sea after passing through the Mindanao Sea, where the Kamikaze Special Attack Corp had blasted one destroyer and two transports on the morning of January 3, as announced by the Imperial Headquarters on Thursday.

In spite of such losses, the enemy convoy persistently forced its way and entered the San Jose Bay on Mindoro on the morning of January 4.

Meanwhile, an enemy task force with four converted aircraft carriers as their mainstay entered the area west of Panay Island on the afternoon of January 4.

Determined to destroy one enemy warship with one plane, three planes of the Issei Special Attack Air Unit sallied forth on the evening of January 4 and rammed and instantly sank one airplane carrier and two battleships or cruisers.

Unending aerial attacks against the enemy task force and convoy in the Sulu Sea area are now being directed by Japanese Wild Eagles.

Enemy Bases Bombed

Japanese Air Forces last heavily bombed the enemy airfields at San

(Continued on Col. 3)

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British-American Differences Over Air Policy

Detailed information which has recently become available regarding the International Civil Aviation Conference, which closed in Chicago more than a month ago, merely serves to confirm the view held at the time that it had ended in dismal failure. The failure of this conference to attain any of its fundamental objectives casts a dark shadow indeed upon the various economic conferences to be held in the future among the anti-Axis nations, for this failure brought out clearly how uncompromising the United States and Britain can be when any of their own interests are involved.

The British policy in regard to international aviation to ration the air routes and to impose various restrictions to limit competition in the air was disclosed in advance by the British White Paper of October 6. At the Civil Aviation Conference, therefore, Britain in accordance with her previously outlined policy proposed the extension and the application internationally of a system similar to that constituted by the Civil Aeronautics Board in the United States domestically, and the allocation of international air traffic by such an agency. This would mean that the operation of air routes would be placed on a permit system controlled by this organ. This policy, of course, would constitute a form of sphere of influence policy. Britain claimed, however, that this plan would meet half way the proposal made by the United States and the opposing proposal made by Australia and New Zealand for the international control of the principal air lanes between the United States, Australia and New Zealand. But this British proposal still failed by far to satisfy the American wishes.

The Americans, on their side, strenuously advocated the so-called "five freedoms of the air" and proposed that overseas air routes should be operated through bilateral agreements between the countries involved. The American proposal naturally reflected the desires of the operators of America's air companies to limit as much as possible the powers of an international authority. The desire of the Americans to have free competition in the air was, of course, based on their conviction that there was no nation which could possibly compete with the vast American commercial air power.

When in the middle of the conference, the fifth freedom, that is, the right to carry traffic between intermediate points along the designated air routes, and the problem of landing points were brought up, a heated discussion broke out and a bitter frontal clash occurred between the American and British delegations. The Latin American nations, submissive satellites of the United States, supported the American plan, while the European nations sided with Britain. A break-up was threatened on several occasions and although a compromise plan was submitted by Canada, neither side would give in.

As a result, the conference was adjourned without any practical result having been reached and with the United States and Britain doing their best to exaggerate the insignificant accomplishments and to gloss over the very evident failure of the meeting. How dismal a failure was this vociferously propagandized conference is clearly evident from the fact that only the United States and Latin American delegations signed all of the so-called "five freedoms" while only two of the "five freedoms" were signed by all of the delegations attending. So irreconcilable were the differences between the United States and Britain on the points that really mattered that they were able to incorporate in the international aviation convention only agreements on subjects which possess no more than trivial significance.

The convention set up an International Civil Aviation Organization to be composed of a general board of directors, but the board's powers do not include the control of services nor the allocation of traffic. The board may deal only with the problem of airports. That the completely selfish desire of the United States to hog the world's air traffic contributed in large degree to the failure of the conference may be seen from the fact that as many as one-third of the Latin American nations were included among the twenty nations selected for membership on the board of directors while the British Empire was given only three seats. Intense dissatisfaction was evinced by the British delegation, as a result of which, through Norwegian intercession, Cuba was prevailed upon to relinquish her seat to India, thus giving the British Empire four seats.

The British advocacy of national sovereignty in the air was attacked by the American press as meaning the "closing of the air." When it saw that the conference was going to end in a failure, the New York Herald Tribune on December 1 pointed out to Adolf Berle, chairman of the conference, that the conference was held prematurely and that it had failed because of insufficient preliminary negotiations. Sarcastically it declared that "a friendly agreement was reached in regard to the fact that there was no agreement." The New York Times on December 4 declared that although the control of international aviation could not be realized immediately, there was a need for its realization in Europe. It held firstly, that it was dangerous to say that such a complex international problem could be solved by such a general principle as non-discrimination; secondly, that the problem could not be solved through such a passive idea as that the removal of barriers and controls would be the way to freedom of the air; and thirdly, that direct, practical local and regional agreements and a general and uniform international organization were not necessarily incompatible. The journal asserted that these points were the lesson learned from the conference.

Stated in plain and simple language, the International Civil Aviation Conference ended in complete failure, without any of the real objectives having been reached. The conference ended in failure because of the irreconcilable stands of the United States and Britain, because of their desire only to consider their own interests. Although what the New York Times had to say of the lessons gained from the conference may be right as far as it goes, a more real lesson is that there can be no agreement between the United States and Britain on problems where each of their interests are at stake. The only point on which there can be any agreement between the two selfish Powers is to oppose those who would bring a new order of justice and morality to the world and to fight for world domination between themselves.

A Year Ago Today
January 6, 1944

A strong demand that the British get out of India and grant the Moslems their independence was made by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, President of the All-India League, at the 31st session of that league held recently.

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President General Pedro Ramirez of Argentina stunned the United States circles when he ordered the strengthening of the press regulation order. The action is viewed as aiming at the suppression of all the newspapers supported by foreign capital and especially to stop all American propaganda entering Argentina.

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About 50 freighters and several oil tankers, guarded by a cruiser, four destroyers and many corvettes left the port of Gibraltar for the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

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Imperial Naval Air Units which had valiantly raided the enemy airfields at Makin Island on December 29 last year, again stormed enemy positions and airfields on the night of January 4 in defiance of heavy anti-aircraft fire of the enemy. In this attack several enemy military establishments were blasted while one place was set ablaze. All the Japanese planes returned safely.

YANKEE COMPLACENCY

U.S. Officials Vexed by Over-Optimism of People

(By A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR)

An undue optimistic outlook of the present war situation prevails among the American people today and their whole attention is concentrated on postwar problems. The past three years of war was a period of great distress and privation for the people of the United States. Although the food rations in the United States have been bigger than in other belligerent nations, the restrictions on their daily consumption imposed by the existences of the war have been a great source of dissatisfaction to these people who have never had a clear-cut war aim.

There is no doubt about the optimistic outlook of the war among the Americans; the thought that the VE (Victory in Europe) day is drawing close at hand has been overwhelmingly controlling the psychology of the American people. The American Government had also stated that, when the war in Europe ends, part of the American army will be demobilized and the war production will be reduced by 40 per cent and this will be alloted for the production of goods needed by the civilian population. This seed of optimism sown by the American Government could not but have immediate effects on the workers of the munitions factories who soon began to seek work in peace industries. As a natural outcome of this, a decline set in America's war production.

On the other hand, the actual war situation has belied, American optimism. The war has become a protracted affair to all intents and purposes. Gone is the idea that the defeat of Germany would come by October and General Dwight Eisenhower, commander-in-chief of the anti-Axis invading forces, has been making a frantic appeal to President Roosevelt to send more weapons and ammunitions. In the Pacific war area, America's operations in the Philippines have had a snag and there is no way of conjecturing when the fighting will come to an end. Dismayed by this turn of the war situation, the American Government has been carrying on fresh propaganda to the effect that the war would be a long-drawn affair for which the people should be prepared. But the medicine given to the people had proved too strong and they were in no mood to listen to the frantic alarm given out by the Roosevelt Administration. The people are now too busy preparing themselves for the postwar conditions to lend their ears to the advice of the government officials. Said the Washington Post the other day:

War Production Reduced

"The American people have decided that the war has already ended. As a result of this attitude, the production of urgent war supplies has drastically been reduced so that our soldiers on the front do not receive enough supplies of weapons and ammunitions. The laborers in the munitions factories have deserted their factories in tens of thousands in quest of jobs in peace industries; Meanwhile, our capitalists are only thinking of how to convert their industries to the peace basis. Germany still retains a fearful war strength and there is no prospect of the termination of the war unless the government plans of war production are carried out as scheduled."

It should be noted that this optimism of the American people regarding the outcome of the war has nothing to do with their sense of defeatism. However, it may be pointed out that their endurance and patience in face of mounting hardships will be weak and faltering, especially when the war becomes a long drawn-out affair. The American Government knows this very well and this is why it is so frantic in seeking a quick termination of the war and in preparing the people for a long war.

The very prevalence of false optimism in the United States as well as the haste in returning to the production of civilian goods is a manifestation of the weakness on the part of the American people to carry on a long war. Although insistent demands have been made for increased production of war supplies, there still prevails this optimistic outlook of the war. The employers are attempting to shift their business to peace time production and the laborers are trying to secure jobs in peace industries. The capitalists are thereby trying to pursue their profit-making, while the workers are out to protect their own material welfare.

The conditions that have given rise to the question of industrial reconversion are the most outstanding feature of the American domestic front. I shall now make a brief sketch of the conditions of living in the United States.

Let us first take up the problem of food. Although restriction has been placed on the consumption of such daily necessities as meat, butter and sugar because of the great increase of demands for the war purposes and the exportation of these materials, it seems that a sufficient supply of these has been generally maintained. Although there was a local scarcity of these foodstuffs in the early part of the war due to the confusion caused by the adoption of the ration system, but since then such difficulties have been eliminated. However, the supply of meat seems to be insufficient still. Although the American Government abolished the rationing of meat last May, it is impossible to secure meat in the open market because of the official price.

Rationing of Canned Goods

Canned goods which have been indispensable for the American people are rationed on the basis of three or four cans per person per month, due to the prohibition of use of tin for canning purposes. Since August, a part of the rationing of canned fruits and vegetables was stopped. It was on sugar that the ration system was first applied. As the Philippines was lost in the early part of the war, the United States had to import sugar from Cuba. The supply of this product is said still to be insufficient, chiefly because of transportation difficulties and the fixing of its price. The amount of foodstuffs exported under the Lend-Lease arrangements is said to constitute 15 per cent of her total production. This means that America has been feeding some 13,000,000 people abroad which is enough to indicate how heavily her people were hit by the shortage.

Nor can we overlook the effects of the inflation created by a vast government disbursement of war expenditures on the life of the American people. The total amount of national income in America in 1943 was estimated at $132,000,000,000 while the total production of consumption goods for the same year was given as $70,000,000,000. Thus, the difference of $62,000,000,000 was to be absorbed by the American Government in the form of taxes, loans and savings, but the great part of it is kept by the people in the form of purchasing power. Such factors as inflation, transportation difficulties and labor shortage, stimulated an unbalanced existence of goods in the nation and sent them to the black market. Thus, meat disappeared from the open market and the distribution of vegetables became difficult. The difficulty of buying women's silk stockings or whisky must be a great blow to the people who are accustomed to them.

On the other hand, the concentration of population in cities has become very pronounced due to the expansion of the war industries and this has greatly intensified the housing problem. Hotels, apartments and boarding houses are packed to full capacities, while bars and night clubs are thriving with those who make fat profits out of the war boom. The increased demands for consumption goods is bound to give rise to a further shortage of those goods, since the reconversion of industry has not been carried out in earnest so far.

ANGLO-U.S. LITERATURE

American and British Leaders Have Mobilized Writers Solely for Propaganda Purposes

By KI KIMURA

I

We all take it for granted that Japan is very poor at propaganda warfare, but this, however may not be the whole truth. Even Pearl Buck declared "Japan's radio broadcasts originating in the Southern regions is directed especially toward America and is broadcast to many nations all over the world in their respective languages. It is producing such devastating results that even the United States cannot do a thing about it. It is far more than a propaganda warfare—a super warfare—the might of which cannot be denied."

Edgar Snow, too, made the following comment. In gist, he said: "European nations can be temporarily subdued with the bait that they are being 'rescued' from Nazi tyranny but in the Orient the picture is entirely different. America and Britain were once the world's premier imperialistic aggressor nations and even though, as a matter of supposition, they succeed in driving away the Japanese Forces from the Pacific islands, their prime motive is still aggression and, unlike Japan, they have no intention whatsoever of giving independence and freedom to the natives. Therefore as far as the Pacific War is concerned no matter what high sounding slogans they may employ, America stands at a distinct disadvantage."

Not only that, even in America itself the suppressed Negroes are hailing Japan as the future leader of all colored races and it is reported that there are plenty pro-Japanese elements among the Negroes themselves.

In American literary circles both Edgar Snow and Pearl Buck are widely regarded as present day authorities on China, the former as a columnist and a critic while the latter is a well-known feminine novelist. When these ace writers secretly recognize the righteousness of Japan's actions within the Co-Prosperity Sphere, the matter should arrest our serious attention.

We may call this the voice of conscience. We should at least give credit to whatever conscience is left among the American intellectuals and if we could only make them feel that, as far as the Orient is concerned, Japan's actions are for a just cause and that America is no match for Japan, then our propaganda warfare has not been in vain.

Buck's 'China Flight'

It will not be necessary to introduce Pearl S. Buck, to our readers, I have had no appetite for the so-called "best sellers" which "sell like hot cakes" and accordingly I have not read her famous novel "The Good Earth" but in glancing through her works it appears that the authoress, though quite versed in things Chinese, is not in sympathy with Japan and things Japanese. In general, we may say that all Occidentals who have thoroughly studied China in the past seem to have developed an anti-Japan complex and Pearl Buck, too, is apparently no exception to the rule.

Her latest serial novel entitled "China Flight" which appeared in the American weekly "Colliers" in serial form last year begins with the annihilation of the American Navy at Pearl Harbor. From there the story tells the plight of an American commander who escapes the disaster of his own ship and threads his way to Shanghai where, upon the outbreak of the Japanese-American hostilities, he gets involved in many complicated situations with the interned American feminine reporters, mysterious characters as well as Japanese soldiers. In this novel, the authoress makes Japanese appear as arch "villains."

I was unable to obtain copies of the entire serial but if I may draw my own conclusions from what I was able to read, I dare comment that the story sadly lacks in interest, is very weak and miserably trashy, and that it is a let-down. An army official once said to me in dire earnest, "I wish that some Japanese writer would portray true Chinese life as Pearl Buck did in "The Good Earth." Through her numerous works such as "Mother's Portrait" etc. I agree with this man that Pearl Buck did not spent her many summers in China for nothing.

But what she portrayed was the old and ancient China, as she saw it, unchanged for many thousands of years and not the present-day China which is undergoing drastic transformations every year. She does not know the China from which Anglo-American influence has been completely wiped out; she does not know the China from which the International Settlement, which was a national cancer, has been removed.

What the American reading public should know now is not old China as she was but the present ever-changing China under the war clouds of the War of Greater East Asia. But to Pearl Buck, reared up in the midst of old China, cannot have an understanding of new China. Therein lies the radical weakness of her works. She stuck her nose into a strange new world which she could not possibly visualize in her serials.

In direct contrast to this, Edgar Snow is a live-wire reporter through and through. When I met him in London he was just an ordinary Leftist reporter and as I remember he was dispatched to China as a correspondent for the Labor Party's mouthpiece "The Daily Herald."

He immediately made pleasant connections with the Chinese Communist Party and later became an authority on the Communist Party. His great work "The Red Star Over China" was widely read even in Japan. Again in his thesis "Chungking's Tragedy" he criticized the runaway inflation in the Chungking outpost. Further in his work, "Will the Soviet Union Invade Germany?" he dared openly predict the occurrence, thereby earning for himself the universal respect of the public for his clear foresight.

Works of German Refugees

We shall, for the time being, recognize Edgar Snow and Pearl Buck as psuedo authorities of the Orient but in passing we must comment upon the following trio who were all banished from Germany, namely Erich Maria Remargue, Feuht Funger and Stefan Zweig. Of this trio Zweig was stricken with melancholia and, wandering into South America, committed suicide there. Remarque fled to France and disappeared while Funger is in America.

The American reading public, which is using the works of Pearl Buck as propaganda material, is also using Funger's works as an anti-Nazi propaganda material. His creation "Double Double, Toil and Trouble" which appeared in a serial form in the "American Magazine" last year, is an expose of a Nazi secretary by a clairvoyant. At any rate this author's masterpiece "Jewish Jews" took the European and American literary circle by storm and I, too, took a great fancy to this work. However, his subsequent writings are not on a par with this creation.

The general impression I received upon reading all American magazines is the skeptic attitude of the American writers toward America's war motive—if there ever was one.

All Japanese literary works however, whether good or bad, unanimously approve Japan's emancipation of the Orient and the construction of the Greater East Asia Common Prosperity Sphere. Their united effort to conform to and cooperate with this noble ideal reminds us of trees and flowers, which facing the sun together, try to extend their branches far and wide. The American war motive, on the other hand, is not thoroughly convincing enough to make the writers enthusiastic.

Stories of War Correspondents

The majority of the publications put out today in America are war narratives by war correspondents from the front, and they are coming out like mushrooms after the rain. One pronounced feature of all these actual war stories is the absolute nonchalance of the authors before they reach the front lines and in spite of the fact that they have to go under shell fire they are no more serious about the venture than when they go to see a baseball game.

It is surmised that the reason for this rather light-hearted attitude of the correspondents is due to the information purposely supplied by the War Department that the war is an easy-going affair and naturally they all take it in a spirit of pure fun. It is also rumored that a certain "war correspondent" who, staying at his base in the Hawaiian Islands and who has never been to the front lines, is constantly manufacturing war news about the American forces.

But once they go under fire they face the grim reality of steel and fire. Especially when they see with their own eyes the indomitable fighting spirit of both Japanese civilians and soldiers and when they witness such scenes as "a hell on earth the like of which will not be witnessed again in one's life," they literally throw their souls out, much like squeezing the vitals out of an earthworm. Then they completely lose their heads and suddenly change their attitude regarding the war against Japan and they make their war reports accordingly.

It was also reported that in order to suppress the rumors about the horrors of the Guadalcanal campaign the American officials picked up about 3,000 uninjured American doughboys and shipped them home in an attempt to fool the homefolks that the American soldiers are thus safe and sound in spite of the rigorous campaign. But oddly enough the boys thus sent home all returned, not triumphantly as planned, but all worn and fagged out. Thus the propaganda produced just the opposite result and instead of camouflaging the catastrophe it rubbed into the minds of the American public the actual grim horror of the Pacific War.

For one thing, however, we must regret the untimely loss of Eric Knight, an ace war correspondent who met his death in the air over Australia. His masterpiece, "This Above All," was perhaps the greatest contribution to war literature since the outbreak of the European War. Through this work we were able to grasp the true nature of the "Tragedy of Dunkirk," the degenerated morality among the British men and women and the defeatism which prevailed all over Britain at that time. We have also learned, at the same time, the undying spirit of the Anglo-Saxon race and their tenacious stubbornness to rise again and again amid the war with one solid determination to turn the tide of the battle. If Eric Knight survived to this day we would have read many more brilliant war literature from his mighty pen.

Wells '42-44'

In Britain proper, to uphold their British journalistic reputation, the chief journals such as the London Times and The Manchester Guardian are issued without any drastic reductions. Whether any other popular literary magazines are still in circulation or not is quite doubtful. It is feared that in Britain, as far as literature is concerned, it has died a natural death for the time being.

Besides an occasional sarcastic humor by the 90-year-old Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells published this autumn a new book entitled "'42-44'". Of course we cannot get hold of this book now but according to telegraphic reports it is a book of 205 pages, full of witty, sarcastic caricatures of the political figures who have played an active part in British politics during the past three years. Churchill was called an imbecile, the former Minister of Air and the present Ambassador to Spain, Sir Samuel Hoare, was ridiculed as a gossiping blow-pipe and one British Foreign Office Official was laughed at as an over-fed cat which is too sleepy to face the ever-changing world situation. Further it hammers down the point that the British public as a whole lacks historical knowledge of facts and if they have any of it, it is just plain arrogance and complacency.

(To Be Concluded)

Fruits of Wisdom

Use dispatch.—Remember that the world only took six days for its creation.—Ask me for whatever you please except time; that is the only thing which is beyond my power.—Napoleon.

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The feeling of distrust is always the last, which a great mind acquires.—Racine.

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Hypocrisy is the homage that vice pays to virtue.—Rochefoucauld.

JAPAN'S CANINE CORPS

Plucky Dogs Share Fate With Japanese Forces

By KANEMITSU TATEISHI

Thousands of plucky Japanese dogs are sharing their fate with the Imperial Japanese Forces fighting from frigid Chishima to the torrid islands fringing the equator, from the mountain fastness of the sprawling Asiatic continent to the multiple coral islets of the blue Mid-Pacific. Time and again, these obedient, courageous, faithful four-legged creatures have undertaken missions far beyond human comprehension—bringing relief to the wounded and sick, aiding in successful military operations, snaring enemy guerrillas, even at the sacrifice of their lives.

Like every modern nation at war, Japan has her canine corps. Composed of carefully selected, highly trained dogs, Japan's canine corps is perhaps one of the least known, unglorified branch of the Japanese fighting service.

While in the happy days of peace, there was such Japanese dogs as faithful Hachi-ko, who became an outstanding example of animal loyalty and won the hearts of everyone throughout the empire to earn a well-deserved spot in elementary school textbooks, in these turbulent days of war there are such gallant dogs as Fuji, Teru and Koa, who have served faithfully in the North China campaign, smelling out bandits and mines and sticks of dynamite during patrol duty along the Peking-Hankow Railway to save countless lives of our soldiers.

Many a Japanese soldier has been spared a knife in the throat or a bullet from a sniper because of the protection given him by the bundle of silent dynamite at his side. Many a detachment has avoided ambush because of the supersensitive nose of its dog.

Wyngolf's Heroism

There is Wyngolf, a German shepherd, for instance, who went with his master to North China. One bleak night in November, Wyngolf and his master on sentry duty at a point some eight kilometers southeast of Tungkuang-hsien, spotted an enemy soldier fleeing along a ravaged road. Immediately the sentry yanked a string tied to his wrist. Wyngolf knew his assignment. He flew after the enemy at lightning speed. Then he jumped at his throat, knocking the enemy to the ground. Wyngolf's master closely tailed the dog. As soon as he reached the struggling pair, he curtly ordered Wyngolf to release the prisoner from his vise-like grip. The dog faithfully obeyed. The sentry searched the prisoner, and discovered he was in possession of detailed information valuable to our forces.

Dogs have often been sent ahead of scouting parties, often locating enemy snipers and patrols whom our soldiers would never spot. There are numerous instances where the animal intelligence of the canine has been a responsible factor in intercepting the enemy. But in this day and age the canine's exploits are often overshadowed by the human being.

During the past year the Teikoku Gunyo-ken Kyokai (Imperial Army Dog Association), which is just one of many similar organizations throughout the country, has assembled and given basic training to about 5,000 canines. After they are carefully cared for about 12 months they are recruited by the army.

Once the dog reaches the army he is given aptitude tests which show what branch of service he is best fitted for. Sentry and attack dogs, which make the greatest part of the canine corps, are trained to uncover enemy positions and assault enemy soldiers. Messenger dogs string communication lines and carry maps and messages or dispatches from battle zones to the rear or from the rear to battle zones. Scout dogs are used as advance patrols or in mopping-up operations, to smell out ground mines or concealed enemy soldiers. Red Cross dogs search out the wounded for the stretcher-bearers. Sledge and pack dogs haul arms, ammunition, food and water and other materials over terrain impassable to humans and horses.

Careful Training

Each dog chosen for an attack corps is taught to strike without mercy any human being except his master. Messenger and Red Cross casualty dogs are not given such instructions, since they are not required to attack soldiers. When a casualty dog finds a wounded man, he takes in his mouth something belonging to the solider and reports to his base with it as evidence of his discovery. Then he leads medical corpsmen back to the wounded soldier.

Each canine is assigned his own master, who is the only man to handle, feed, instruct and care for him. This man gives him his basic military training, teaching him to execute orders given by hand signals. The dog must learn such perfect obedience that he can be charging at lightning speed with fangs bared an an "enemy's" throat, yet at the shouted command "Down!" immediately shut his mouth, fall flat on his belly and not budge is hair until he is given his next orders.

After several weeks of careful military training, sentry dogs are ready for service abroad or for home guard and patrol duty. The other dogs require more meticulous training for they must be highly specialized in every detail because their field requires perfection.

The Teikoku Gunyo-ken Kyokai was originally a kennel club composed of dog-lovers. But ever since the outbreak of the China Affair its members feeling an irresistable urge to be of some service decided to convert the club into a regular organization for the State. Its members decided to contribute their favorite canines to Japan's fighting service, after rearing them through infancy and teaching them the fundamentals taught to an average-trained dog.

More Than 10,000 Members

Today the Teikoku Gunyo-ken Kyokai is composed of more than 10,000 members from all parts of Japan and North China. This association has its headquarters at Ogawa-cho in Kanda, Tokyo. There are similar dog organizations throughout the country while affiliate associations have been founded in Manchoukuo and Mengchiang.

One of the most amazing things about the Teikoku Gunyo-ken Kyokai is that it exists on a small government subsidy of ¥3,000 per anum plus its membership dues (each member is assessed ¥15 per year). All its expeditures, plus dog food, medicine and various other items not covered by its annual income is willingly footed by its members. This organization is truly a dog-lovers society offering patriotic service to a nation at war.

It takes the average dog only about three months to learn the simple tricks of the trade, such as "down," "at him," "at my side," etc. as well as when to ford a stream, scale a wall or hop a fence. A canine can be trained when he reaches the age of teh months up to about five years—of course, the younger the better.

Although dogs have played an important role in the wars in Europe, having been made indispensable by brilliant canine experts of Germany, their use in this part of the globe is comparably new. Japan's interest in army dogs began during the Manchurian Incident when General Sadao Araki, then War Minister strongly advocated their use in war. Since then they have proved an efficient indispensable weapon and the breeding and training of army dogs has progressed by leaps and bounds.

Most of Japan's famous army dogs were purchased from Germany, but since the start of the Greater East Asia War their importation having been cut off, crossbreds and Japanese thoroughbreds are being trained to serve the purpose. However, as yet, Japanese canine experts assert that the German shepherd is the king of the army dogs. Numerous words of praise and awards the German shepherds have earned are an eloquent testimony of this statement.

Dogs are Honored

Each year on "Aiba-nohi," (Horse Day), celebrated on April 7, five or six canines are also honored. On that day the War Ministry announces the awarding of citations and awards to army dogs rendering meritorious service to the State. But on the whole there are numerous others whose exploits never reach the public and they are buried and forgotten with their animal muteness.

One of this most valiant dog heroes is Goru, an Airedale terrer hailing from Takao in Taiwan. Goru was a messenger dog who braved mud and dust and gunfire in North China transmitting more than 210 dispatches during a 23-day period from 6:00 p.m. on October 7, 1937 to the evening of October 29. Goru averaged ten trips a day, covering a distance of two kilometers in less than 12 minutes. Unfortunately, the wiry poodle received bullet wounds about his head and died on line of duty at 6:40 p.m. on October 29, falling 50 meters short of his final dispatch post. Goru was eight years old when he died. Before joining the colors Goru was a carefree pooch-hound, very popular with the youngsters of Takao.

In recent years the feats of Piro, a German shepherd, are outstanding. Piro was born on March 6, 1940 and served with the Japanese Forces in Central China.

On the morning of August 30, 1942, Piro was on sentry duty with his master Private Toshio Suzuki along a railway at Liuchiaho, seven kilometers south of Kuangshui. About 7:10 a.m. at a point of 2,200 meters north Liuchiaho, Piro suddenly reversed his tracks and began sniffing the area thoroughly. Then he began pawing the ground. His master, following Piro's dictation, dug the earth and uncovered along side of the tracks a ground mine containing 36 sticks of explosives.

On October 12 at 10:30 p.m., while on advance patrol duty in a hilly sector southeast of Leikuchiu, Piro smelled out an enemy machinegun nest. Piro and his master Private Toshio Suzuki returned and reported their discovery to headquarters. Then they headed an assault party. Within 250 meters of the machine-gun nest they saw three enemy soldiers fleeing 100 meters ahead of them. At his master's command, Piro gave hot chase. Tailing one enemy soldier who looked like an officer, Piro chased him into the village of Maoshuibo and returned with 27 important enemy maps minutely desailing enemy movements. For these brilliant achievements, Piro was granted a first class award on April 7, this year.